



Local Economy >

Volume 25, 2010 - Issue 5-6: Special Edition: Looking Back on New Labour

79 | 27

Views | CrossRef citations to date | Altmetric

Viewpoint

# Looking Back in Order to Move Forward: The Politics of Evolving Sub-National Economic Policy Architecture

Lee Pugalis

Pages 397-405 | Published online: 24 Nov 2010

Cite this article

Sample our  
Built Environment  
Journals



>> [Sign in here](#) to start your access  
to the latest two volumes for 14 days

Full Article

Figures & data

References

Citations

Metrics

Reprints & Permissions

Read this article

Share

---

VIEWPOINT

---

# Looking Back in Order to Move Forward: The Politics of Evolving Sub-National Economic Policy Architecture

LEE PUGALIS

*Durham County Council; County Durham Economic Partnership; and School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, Newcastle University, UK*

## Introduction

Based on insights 'in the English field' over the past decade, I take a brief look back at New Labour's economic policy architecture as a means to postulate on its reconfiguration under the incumbent Liberal Democrat–Conservative (Lib-Con) Coalition Government. In particular, I reflect on my time devising spatial policy, economic strategies and regeneration programmes at national, regional and local spatial scales, to consider the transition from a New Labour regionalist approach (epitomised by Regional Development Agencies) to a Lib-Con purported localism approach (embodied in the proposed Local Enterprise Partnerships).<sup>1</sup> I conclude by expressing some personal concerns that the dismantling of existing regional economic architecture is akin to throwing the baby out with the bath-water. Alongside this, I contend that in the haste to set-up Local Enterprise Partnerships, the Coalition Government may be in danger of reinventing the wheel.

---

*Correspondence Address:* Lee Pugalis, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UQ, UK.  
 Email: lee.pugalis@ncl.ac.uk

<sup>1</sup> A coalition agreement to govern the UK was struck between the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives in May 2010.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> A coalition agreement to govern the UK was struck between the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives in May 2010.

<sup>2</sup> RDAs have received funding through a Single Programme budget (known as the 'single pot') since April 2002.

<sup>3</sup> The present sponsor for RDAs is the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

<sup>4</sup> One only has to take a glance at each of the nine RDAs' corporate plans, investment priorities and plethora of strategies, to appreciate that they have an extensive remit, but, arguably of more interest, is each RDAs spatially-flavoured economic development approach. Some have prioritised place quality enhancements and physical regeneration, whilst others have looked to innovation or enterprise, which is reflected in the organisational structures of each RDA, with some opting to utilise local delivery partners more than others.

<sup>5</sup> At the time of writing in September 2010, it is anticipated that some activities, such as inward investment, innovation and business support, will be 'led' nationally, however, it remains to be seen whether implementation would be led from a single national base.

<sup>6</sup> The letter is available at:

[http://centreforcities.typepad.com/centre\\_for\\_cities/2010/06/cablepickles-letter-on-local-enterprise-partnerships.html](http://centreforcities.typepad.com/centre_for_cities/2010/06/cablepickles-letter-on-local-enterprise-partnerships.html) (accessed 2 July 2010).

<sup>7</sup> See Pugalis ([2009c](#)) for an analysis of the evolving relationship between these tripartite regional bodies.

---

Log in via your institution

➤ [Access through your institution](#)

Log in to Taylor & Francis Online

➤ [Log in](#)

Restore content access

➤ [Restore content access for purchases made as guest](#)

There are no offers available at the current time.

## Related Research

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by  
27

## Information for

Authors

R&D professionals

Editors

Librarians

Societies

## Opportunities

Reprints and e-prints

Advertising solutions

Accelerated publication

Corporate access solutions

## Open access

Overview

Open journals

Open Select

Dove Medical Press

F1000Research

## Help and information

Help and contact

Newsroom

All journals

Books

## Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources  
by email

 Sign me up

  

  

Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited Privacy policy Cookies Terms & conditions

Accessibility



Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954  
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG